ived for the exploitation of nodules. It is estimated that the production of commercially important metails like copper, nickel, cobalt and manganese will be possible on a commercial scale by 2008—2009 AD.

Central Administrative Tribunal

292. SHRI HAVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Administrative Tribunal (CAT) which was set up about two and a half years back to speed up disposal of Central Government employee's service disputes is presently facing an increased number of pending cases in its various benches;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be as on the 30th June, 1986; and

(c) the steps taken or proopsed to be taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total number of cases pending before various benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal as on 30-6-88 is 23,639.

(c) Government have already decided to appoint more Vice-Chairmen and Members to the Central Administrative Tribunal. It has also been decided to open additional benches of the Central Administrative Tribunal at Jaipur and Lucknow with a view to facilitate speedy disposal of cases.

U. S. Military Aid to Pakistan

293. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has the 'Indian Express' dated the 9th May, 1988 under the caption "$ 240 million US Military aid for Pakistan";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) if so, the precautionary steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Such press reports refer to a proposal of one of the Houses of the U.S. Congress. It has not yet been enacted into legislation.

(c) Government are alert to all developments having a bearing on India's security.

Research on Low Weight of Infants at the Time of Birth due to Nuclear Radiation

294. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of detailed research work which established low weight in infants at the time of birth in the vicinity of commercial nuclear power stations in Wisconsin in USA; and

(b) whether any similar studies have been conducted in India and if so, with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) No Sir.